

## **COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**June 6, 2006**

**6:00 PM**

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Lopez, Smith, Forest, DeVries

Messrs.: K. DeSchuiteneer, R. Musat, T. Arnold, J. Hoben, D. Boutillier

Chairman O'Neil stated I would like to take Item 4 first.

Amendment to the noise ordinance submitted by Deputy Clerk Normand:  
"Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by  
repealing Chapter 94: Noise Regulations in its entirety and inserting  
a new Chapter 94: Noise Regulations."

Alderman DeVries moved to approve the ordinance amendment and refer it to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Kenneth DeSchuiteneer of Metro Cab Co. and  
Rudolph Musat of Queen City Taxi requesting a minimal taxi fare increase  
amounting to \$.50.

Alderman DeVries stated I am wondering who might be here to represent the company.

Chairman O'Neil responded I know Mr. DeSchuiteneer is here and called him and Mr. Musat forward.

Alderman DeVries stated it is our understanding that the gas prices are something that are absorbed by your drivers and you are having a hard time recruiting drivers because of the low reimbursement.

Kenneth DeSchuiteneer, Metro Cab, responded that is exactly right.

Alderman DeVries asked so am I to understand that you are going to be offering the full reimbursement to your drivers if there is an increase in the fares.

Mr. DeSchuiteneer replied if you are asking me if I plan on raising my leases, I do not plan on raising my leases. I plan on letting the drivers have the total increase.

Rudolph Musat, Queen City Taxi, stated I plan on doing the same thing.

Alderman DeVries asked and you represent the other company. So these are the two companies in Manchester. If you do not increase your leases to your drivers, the profits do not flow to the company but flow directly to the drivers. Is that correct?

Mr. DeSchuiteneer answered that is correct but we are going to benefit because we feel that if they are making a decent living because they don't have to pay the exorbitant gas prices we feel we will be able to get more drivers. More drivers bring us more income.

Alderman DeVries asked what assurance will we have that after a month you wouldn't change your mind and increase the leases.

Mr. DeSchuiteneer answered well in four years I have raised my lease...since the last increase I have raised my lease \$10 and that is because we had a 30% increase in insurance. I believe he did the same. I think he raised it \$10.

Mr. Musat stated yes. In the past seven years I have increased it only \$10.

Chairman O'Neil asked would you be comfortable if we put some kind of sunset on this where we can take a look at it in a couple of months if we agree to do it and not make it permanent.

Mr. DeSchuiteneer replied do you mean like a probationary increase.

Chairman O'Neil stated I don't expect it is going to happen but if all of the sudden gas prices drop...

Mr. DeSchuiteneer interjected I wouldn't have a problem with that.

Alderman DeVries moved to increase the taxi fare by \$.50 with a three month sunset. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez asked the lease that you have with the drivers...Matt do we have a copy of that lease to insure that the lease would not increase. I know Alderman DeVries mentioned it but do you have a copy of the lease so that we can make sure that if there is anything in the lease that says any increase they would receive a percentage of whatever the case may be to increase the lease?

Deputy Clerk Normand answered no I don't. I am not even sure if it is in writing, that lease that they have. It may be. Mr. DeSchuiteneer or Mr. Musat could tell you but we don't have a copy of that.

Alderman Lopez asked could you provide the City Clerk...

Mr. DeSchuiteneer answered I don't have a copy of the lease. They lease it daily and it is on the sheet that they sign when they take the car out...what the cost will be. They don't lease...in other words they don't lease the cab on a regular basis every Tuesday for a year or every Wednesday for a year. They lease it on a daily basis and it is just a simple lease sheet with their name, the car they are driving and they agree to pay the charges and that is it.

Alderman Lopez replied in saying that walk me through it. Say you hire me and I am going to sign a lease to take that taxicab. In that lease is it going to say that I am going to be given an additional \$.50 over and above the normal fare?

Mr. DeSchuiteneer responded what it is going to say is that the fee is \$10/hour for my leases. It is a 12-hour lease. They take the cabs full of gas and they bring it back full. They pay \$10/hour for the lease. I think that is what you are asking. As far as any portions of the fare, that is theirs. We don't touch the fares at all.

Alderman Lopez replied I just wanted to make sure that the lease doesn't indicate that. Could you provide a copy of what you are talking about to the City Clerk?

Mr. DeSchuiteneer responded yes I could give that to Matt.

Alderman Forest asked Mr. Musat is it a similar situation with your company.

Mr. Musat answered yes it is but I would like to add something. Last September I was opposing increasing the fares. I was hoping that the gas prices would go down. That was last September. Now I am basically for the \$.50/mile because I don't think the gas prices are going down. The economy is not in great shape. It is not going to be in great shape for another two years that's for sure. We are not going to see the gas prices going down. The gas price doesn't affect Queen City Taxi or Metro Cab like a company except in hiring the drivers. If we increase the

lease \$10 or \$5 it is going to be only because the insurance is \$93,000 for eight cars for year plus another \$45,000 for workman's compensation per year. That is the reason we increases the leases, not because of gas prices. The gas price is affecting only the drivers. Basically what we are trying to do right now is help our drivers. When we put an ad in the newspaper we hope that we will get some drivers because the first week we hire a new driver that guy is scared about putting \$45 or \$50 in the gas tank. Right now because City Hall has forced us to have only the full size cars, which it is a luxury to have a V8 engine these days, that is the problem we have right now with the drivers. That is the reason we are asking for the extra \$.50 per mile.

Alderman Forest stated you were here several months ago in opposition to an increase and at that time the gas price was pretty close to \$3/gallon.

Mr. Musat responded right. Like I said, I was hoping it was going down.

Alderman Forest stated but it was close to \$3/gallon back then. What has made you change your mind between then and now? The gas prices are pretty close to what they were.

Mr. Musat replied I lost my trust in the economy. I don't see any reason for the gas prices to go down. If the gas prices go down I will be the first one in the taxi community to go back to the previous rates. I know for sure we are going to lose a few customers who are not going to be happy with the new prices but when you go to Hannaford and pay \$.50 or \$.75 more for a gallon of milk, you have to do it. Everybody is going to be affected by the gas prices unfortunately.

Alderman Forest responded I agree with you that gas prices aren't going to go down in our lifetime. They didn't go down after 1978 and they didn't go down after 1968. I don't expect them to go down any time soon.

Chairman O'Neil stated I would like to make it clear that after 90 days they have to come back to the Committee. It ends in 90 days. If they don't come back, we don't extend it. Is that part of your motion, Alderman DeVries?

Alderman DeVries moved to amend the motion have the increase in taxi fares expire in 90 days subject to review if there is any increase in the lease in the interim. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the amendment. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion as amended. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil stated I just want to make it perfectly clear gentlemen that if we get any complaints we will ask Mr. Normand and the Police Department to investigate. We are putting our trust in you. We have done business with you for a long time. I hope there is no increase in the leases on this. If we get any complaints we will have the Police Department and Mr. Normand investigate. I want to make that perfectly clear.

Deputy Clerk Normand asked could we just get on the record what their lease rates are right now.

Mr. Musat answered Queen City Taxi is \$110.

Mr. DeSchuiteneer answered Metro Cab is \$120 but if they break down we don't charge them if they are not on the road. I charge \$10/hour for their working time.

Chairman O'Neil asked does that need approval of the full Board.

Deputy Clerk Normand answered yes.

Chairman O'Neil asked can we take that to the full Board tonight.

Deputy Clerk Normand answered we can try to get that ready for tonight.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to the reorganization of the administration of Traffic and Parking responsibilities, if necessary.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to make sure about the reorganization of Traffic and the Parking Division.

Chairman O'Neil asked Mr. Borek is not here.

Alderman Lopez answered I guess not.

Alderman Forest asked does this have to do with the Parking Manager because I read something on this but I don't remember what it was.

Chairman O'Neil stated I thought the last time the Committee on Administration met and all of the work we did and reported to the full Board it was pretty clear what direction we were going in. I am not really sure why this is back on here.

Alderman Forest stated the other question I have is they have already posted the Parking Manager job. I would say wait until they hire someone to work on the reorganization.

Chairman O'Neil asked Alderman Lopez do you have a different interpretation of why this needs some clarification.

Alderman Lopez stated just for the two employees who are involved in this process and without having a Parking Manager and just to make sure that things are moving along and there are no problems in the Traffic Division and Parking Division. I just want this on the record so we are not blindsided later. The question is...there are no problems in the Traffic Division. Is that correct Jim?

Jim Hoben, Deputy Traffic Director, answered yes it is business as usual.

Alderman Lopez asked Denise are you working in the Parking Division with Mr. Borek.

Denise Boutillier stated I don't know. I haven't been contacted and I haven't had a meeting with him.

Alderman Lopez asked have you had a meeting with Kevin or Randy or anybody.

Ms. Boutillier answered I haven't had a meeting with anyone.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think Denise has been holding the fort together in the interim and it shouldn't exclusively fall on her shoulders. That wasn't supposed to be the plan.

Alderman Lopez replied I totally agree with you. I just wanted to make sure that my assumptions were correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated Matt did go to see if Mr. Borek was in the building. I am surprised he is not here tonight.

Alderman DeVries stated I think for clarification because there is an anticipation that there will be at least a six month delay in the budget year before the plan can be implemented for the reorganization I think we just need to clarify in the interim period who is offering support to the Traffic Division and if Denise is going to be located there until such time that our Committee determines otherwise within the Traffic Division to offer that support. I don't think there has been a location identified in another office. There are some meetings that we need to have.

Chairman O'Neil replied I agree. There is a probability that we are going to be meeting next week. Maybe we can meet before that. I would entertain a motion that the Economic Development Director and if he needs support from the Solicitor's Office or the Finance Department, that they meet with Denise and Jim to make sure there is a transition plan in process. I don't think any of us expected it was going to be fully implemented July 1 but at some point we need to start moving forward. So I would entertain a motion on that and if they report back...they should plan on reporting back next week.

Alderman DeVries moved to have the Economic Development Director work with City staff (Solicitor, Finance and HR) and Denise and Jim on a transition plan and report back to the Committee next week.

Chairman O'Neil stated I look at Economic Development and Traffic as directly related to this. Anybody else they need they have our blessing. If they need HR, Solicitor or Finance they will be made available to get this moving forward.

Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Smith stated as you know I was opposed to moving the Traffic and Parking responsibilities but if I remember correctly the Board voted to have Paul Borek be in charge of Parking. Right now we have the so-called Parking Manager with no place to go, no direction and this was done over a month ago. I would require that he be at our next meeting if he is going to head the department or organize it. He should be here and I request his presence at the next meeting.

Chairman O'Neil asked Deputy Clerk Normand if he had any suggestions for a meeting time next week.

Deputy Clerk Normand answered if the Committee wants to meet next week I have to get the calendar to make sure we can fit everything in. If you just want something in writing regarding what the transition plan will be we can get it to the Committee members. We could do a phone poll.

Chairman O'Neil stated my expectations would be that we will probably be meeting as the full Board next week so maybe some time before that meeting we can schedule a meeting. I think it would be appreciated if we could get a report back as soon as possible.

Alderman Forest stated next week I believe a lot of us are going to be tied up with other City business. I don't know how flexible I am going to be next week.

Chairman O'Neil replied well we are probably going to be meeting as the full Board next week.

Alderman Forest stated other than Monday night, which is what I heard.

Chairman O'Neil stated that is fine. Whatever night we end up meeting as a full Board the Committee on Administration will meet that same night. As Alderman Smith said we have to make sure Mr. Borek is there but I hope they meet before that.

Alderman Lopez stated to answer the question as to why it is on the agenda, I think that at the meeting we had the City Solicitor and Tom Arnold you can probably bring us up-to-date but there has to be ordinances for the Parking Division and ordinances for the Traffic Division. Have we completed those yet or is that going to come in next week?

Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, replied I believe that will probably come in next week.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think what has happened is since we voted on this nothing has happened. Am I correct Denise and Jim? Nothing has happened since it was voted on and we need to start getting things in motion.

Alderman DeVries stated I am not sure what has to happen for the budget process. I think we have looked and acknowledged that it is going to take us at least six months to implement this. If we are aware of any chargebacks that need to occur as people are reallocated before then we can just accomplish that simple act and spend more time developing the ordinances.

Alderman Lopez stated I believe this is going to take place on July 1.

Chairman O'Neil responded but I do somewhat agree with Alderman DeVries that if all of the personnel hasn't moved...I recall Mr. Sherman saying that whether they are formally part of a Parking Division or somewhere else, the money is there and the chargeback can be made. If Denise doesn't move over for six months, her salary, benefits, etc. would be charged to the Parking Division even though she may remain at Traffic for a period of time.

Mr. Hoben stated the budget was split as far as the process the Board went through. She is within the \$6 million budget.



Chairman O'Neil responded correct but if she remains...the specific question came up...any of the staff, the fund exists and whether Denise is formally working in the Parking Division or still at Traffic for a period of time the money is there for her to do that work.

Ms. Boutillier stated he means physically at the Traffic Department.

Chairman O'Neil responded wherever you are physically located, the money is there to pay for everything.

Mr. Hoben stated the other thing is that Traffic is left dangling. Parking has a road to follow but Traffic was left on the side.

Alderman DeVries stated I think that is the piece that we don't have to identify within the budget process. It is not under a timetable. It can allow us to develop the ordinances and have more in-depth conversation and the Traffic Division will stay as it is today. Nothing needs to change until the physical support leaves your office and is relocated to a different location, i.e. Denise.

Ms. Boutillier asked so I will be providing support for Traffic and Parking while I am physically in the Traffic Division on July 1. For instance, payroll and any accounts payables and accounts receivables?

Alderman Lopez answered that is something that has to be worked out with Paul Borek and Jim as far as what administrative duties you are going to perform. Your job is going to be working on the Parking aspect of it. Now if you have to crossover to do something that is going to have to be worked out with Mr. Borek.

Mr. Boutillier stated right but the problem lies with the Traffic Department not having anyone to do their administrative work like payroll, purchase orders, accounts receivables and accounts payables and it hasn't been determined where the Traffic Division is going to be.

Alderman Lopez replied well Jim will have to do it.

Chairman O'Neil stated I thought part of the plan was that Highway was going to provide those services once Denise formally went over to Parking. This is some of the stuff that has to get ironed out and I thought was actually being worked on. I am disappointed to hear it isn't. Maybe we need to include Highway in that meeting then.

Alderman DeVries stated as I said if Denise is still located within the Traffic Department and doesn't have a 40 hour a week responsibility within the new Parking Division it only seems logical to me that through chargebacks we can accomplish her being the support person for the Traffic Division until we are sure that we have a full-time position and duties identified elsewhere. I wouldn't want to transfer her just for clarity and not have her be fully serving out a full-time job.

Chairman O'Neil stated we will include Highway in the motion. Matt, can you read the motion please?

Deputy Clerk Normand stated the motion is for Mr. Borek to meet with Traffic, specifically Jim and Denise and include any departments like HR, Solicitor that are needed to iron out a transition plan for next week.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil stated so tentatively we will meet next week if the full Board meets and we will expect some report by then.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Appeals of the denial of a peddlers license application and the denial of a taxicab drivers license application.

Alderman Lopez moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3II(c). Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. By roll call vote it was voted by the members of the Committee to enter into non-public session. As a result of the discussion held by those present, it was the consensus of the Committee members present that Stephen Alonzo's peddler's license be reinstated with conditions. The Committee also voted to reinstate Terri Nation's taxi license with conditions with Alderman Forest being duly recorded in opposition.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez it was voted to exit non-public session.

Deputy Clerk Normand stated that no business other than the appeal of the denial of Stephen Alonzo's peddlers license and Terri Nation's taxi license were discussed in non-public session.

**TABLED ITEM**

7. Communication from Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, providing an update on the status of cable casting origination points.  
*(Tabled 11/22/2005 pending further information from the Board of School Committee.)*

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business, on motion of a motion is in order to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

s/Leo R. Bernier  
Clerk of Committee